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Surplus of $21,989.46 for 1926 Estimated by Provincial Treasurer of Alberta in Third Budget Speech

Inclusion of $130,000 to Meet Costs of Election in General Estimates for Year is Departure From All Previous Practice—Alberta Government Directly Responsible for Only $5,204,964.41 of Increase in Public Debt—Improved Outlook in Alberta's Economic Life Revealed by R. G. Reid—Heavy Reductions in Controllable Expenditure

EDMONTON, March 18.—After deducting the sum of $130,000 provided in this year's estimates for the necessary expenditure on a general Provincial election, Hon. R. G. Reid, Provincial Treasurer, in his budget speech today, estimated a surplus for 1926 of $21,989.46. The inclusion of the cost of the election in the general estimates is a completely new departure, former Governments having made provision for the election by special warrant. If this item had not been included in the estimates, the surplus would have shown as $151,989.46

RESPONSIBLE FOR $5,204,964

Financial statements presented by Mr. Reid showed that of the total of $22,775,655.48 which has been added to the public debt since the U. F. A. Government came into office, $16,462,603.25 was incurred on account of definite commitments of the Liberal administration which was in office up to the fall of 1921, while $1,108,087.86 was uncontrollable expenditure incurred for hay relief and the grasshopper campaign of 1922. Deducting this amount and the commitments for which the former Government was responsible, the total additions to the debt for which the Farmers' Government has been responsible in the past five years was $5,204,964.41.

Declaring that the Province was coming into an era of economic prosperity, and that the proportion of taxes to production was less in Alberta than in any Province west of Quebec, Mr. Reid reviewed the financial situation since the present Government came into power. No additional taxes are proposed, and the reductions in assessment throughout the Province would reduce the Supplementary tax levy by 20 per cent.

The Provincial Treasurer estimated the revenue for 1926 at $11,699,852.39, and the expenditure at $11,677,862.93, leaving an estimated surplus as stated above.

There will be a net increase over 1925 in expenditure of $934,856.48, including the amount to provide for the expenses of the Provincial election this year.

HON. R. G. REID

MR. REID'S THIRD BUDGET

In commencing his address, Mr. Reid said this was the third occasion on which it had devolved upon him to present the annual budget, and at no time in the past had the occasion been a more auspicious one.

This was not altogether because of the balancing of the budget, (that had contributed) but because of other factors which had strengthened our economic position.

In looking back, one had found there were well marked stages of progress. There were periods of depression and occasions when we were marking time, but there always followed the inevitable step forward.

SIGNS OF ALBERTA'S PROGRESS

"Last year saw a repetition of good crops and fair prices for farm produce," said Mr. Reid. "New co-operative marketing services were successfully fostered and inaugurated. Discoveries of oil and wet gas have inspired confidence that there are heavy oil deposits in this Province. Salt wells in the north

(Continued on page 16)

Important Information to Farmers

Owing to the abnormal weather conditions of last Fall, it is very necessary to have all seed tested for germination. The Dominion Seed Branch, Calgary, will make these tests at a charge of 50c during March and April, (tests are free during the rest of the year). Make use of this service provided by the Dominion Government and assure yourself of the germinating power and vitality of the grain you intend to seed.

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Prepares for the Coming Election

Calgary Local U. F. W. A. No. [illegible] held their monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. S. J. Ewing, 1147 Second Avenue S. W., on Monday evening, March 8th. Following a short business meeting, the members were given a very practical and entertaining sewing demonstration by Mrs. H. O. Carpender. Mrs. Carpender went into the many intricate steps that go to make up the cleverly fashioned pocket, which is now so much a part of every smart frock. Needless to say, her audience was most attentive. Mrs. Wm. Carson was called on to give a short address on "Current Events," which she made most interesting and instructive.

Plans for the Local's share in the coming political campaign were outlined briefly, and a political committee named to report regularly on this phase of the work. This committee is made up of Mrs. E. R. Briggs, Mrs. H. O. Carpender and Miss Lucile MacRae.

It was decided that a social evening, a dance and card party should be held sometime late in March, the date and arrangements to be left to the social committee.

After this discussion, the Local was most delightfully entertained by Mrs. W. P. Birch, who sang two very pretty selections, accompanied on the piano by her daughter, Miss Eileen Birch.

Before the close of the evening, Mrs. Ewing served a very dainty and refreshing supper.

Notes From the Wheat Head Office

MR. HUTCHINSON'S MEETINGS

Lew Hutchinson, Director of the Alberta Wheat Pool for the Camrose district, will address a series of meetings as follows in the interests of the Pool: Edberg, Tuesday, March 30th, 2 p.m.; Meeting Creek, Tuesday, March 30th, 8 p.m.; Donalda, Wednesday, March 31st, 2 p.m.; Round Hill, Friday, April 2nd, 11 a.m.

WILDEST DREAMS COME TRUE

In the last report of the secretary of the National Council of Farmers' Co-operative Marketing Associations, Washington, D.C., the following excerpt from a letter written by Ernest R. Downie, general manager of the Kansas Wheat Pool, to the National Council, is quoted; the letter refers to the recent International Wheat Pool Conference held at St. Paul, Minnesota:

> When we remember that co-operative marketing of wheat under our standard contract was practically unheard of five years ago, we are amazed when we realize that a world conference of active successful Pools, covering nearly all of the important wheat producing areas of the world is a reality, and that one group, the Canadian Pools, are the biggest factor in the world wheat market today. It seems that even our wildest hopes and dreams in the first few years have already come true.

REPORTS WILL BE AVAILABLE

The Alberta Wheat Pool Head Office is ordering a limited number of copies of the report of the International Conference of Wheat Pool representatives held in St. Paul, Minnesota, in February. These copies will be available in the early part of April and will be distributed by Head Office at cost.

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Vol. V. CALGARY, ALBERTA, MARCH 25, 1926 No. 9

PRINCIPAL CONTENTS

PAGE
Surplus of $21,969.46 for 1925 Estimated by Reid 1
Preparing for the Coming Election 2
Notes From the Wheat Pool Head Office 2
Editorial 3
Without a Dissenting Vote, Legislature Urges Readjustment Soldier Settlers' Obligations 4
What Railways and Irrigation Cost the Province 6
Heavy Decrease in Number of Employees Since 1921 6
As Seen From the Press Gallery 9
President H. W. Wood Receives Ovation at Elnora 10
The Budget in Brief—Comparative Estimates 10
How Controllable Expenditures Have Been Reduced 12
News of the Organization 14
Inquire Into Alleged Irregularities in Athabasca 14
Petition Against Kennedy's Election Through Cross Fire... 14

EDITORIAL

U. F. A. GOVERNMENT'S RECORD OF ACHIEVEMENT

After wrestling for several years with the serious economic and financial problems which came to them as an inheritance from an extravagant administration, the U. F. A. Government last year turned the deficit into a surplus. During the coming year they will produce a further surplus, even though the heavy cost of a Provincial general election is provided for in the estimates for 1926.

In his third budget speech the Provincial Treasurer, R. G. Reid, made a lucid and extensive survey of the financial and economic history of Alberta during the past few years, and we invite every reader to make a careful study of the speech, published in the current issue, and to preserve the facts and figures for future reference. The U. F. A. Government, when it came into power, faced a more difficult problem than has been faced by any other Province in the Dominion during recent years. By business men who have come into close contact with the administration, it is freely admitted that the Government have attacked the problem with a thoroughness and efficiency unequalled in the history of the Province. And incidentally, they have shown that in Alberta, a Government mainly composed of farmers, can give "business administration" of far greater efficiency than any party Government.

The information which Mr. Reid presented on the subject of the public debt is of very great interest. While there has been an increase in the public debt during the past five years of $23,775,615.43, only $5,504,064.41 of this was due to commitments for which this Government is directly responsible. Legislation passed by the previous Liberal administration or agreements entered into by that administration in 1921, was responsible for no less than $16,462,503.25, while uncontrollable expenditure for hay relief, and for the grasshopper campaign which saved vast areas of Alberta from disaster, accounted for an additional $1,169,047.85.

Neither the daily press in general, nor the propagandists of the political parties, are likely to give wide publicity to these facts. They should be known, however, by every citizen of Alberta. The organized farmers, through their Locals and Constituency Associations, are in a position to give the truth about Alberta's recent financial history, the widest possible circulation.

The statement presented by Mr. Reid reflects the greatest credit upon the Government as a whole, and upon the Treasury Department of which he has charge.

* * *

PLAN TO LOOT THE FARMING INDUSTRY

Some weekly papers which claim to have the interests of the farmers at heart, have given very real encouragement to the economic interests which are plotting to impose an export duty on Canadian wheat. Other weeklies with a farm circulation have been suggesting that the danger of any serious effort being made to impose such a duty is not real nor in any degree imminent.

The danger is very real. Unless the primary producers become fully aware of this it may soon be imminent. For some time past the propaganda of the wheat export taxers has been carried on in a somewhat circumspect way. Now the interests which are seeking this special privilege (which can be given only at the cost of millions of dollars to the wheat growers of the Western Provinces), are becoming bolder, and a campaign is being launched through a portion of the press.

The most outspoken press appeal for the penalization of the wheat growers for the benefit of certain manufacturing interests which we have seen in any Western newspaper, is made by the Morning Star, of Vancouver, in an editorial almost a column and a half in length. Under the heading of "Wheat and the New National Policy", the Star advances the novel doctrine that "raw materials of Canada can be made to yield far greater profit to the mass of Canadians by putting such a high export duty upon them in the raw state only that in the natural trend of trade and commerce and world-wide demand for articles manufactured from them, they would be made in Canada." The Star advances as part of its NEW NATIONAL POLICY "some eventual but not immediate restriction on the export of wheat unmanufactured," and suggests that notice should be given to "farmers, millers and the world at large", that after a certain date the export of wheat would be restricted on a sliding scale in proportion to export of flour from Canadian mills."

This newspaper proceeds to state that "discharging prairie wheat into the holds of ships will not make Vancouver and the vicinity the great industrial centre which we hope to see it become", and after setting forth the advantages which it claims would accrue to manufacturers if the sale of prairie farmers' wheat abroad were restricted, concludes that "for this reason we would be inclined to put some eventual restriction even on the outgoing wheat of Canada."

If the Canadian farmers desire to check the propaganda which has recently been gaining momentum, they would be wise to take a strong and very definite stand. When the opportunity occurs, it would be wise to elect to legislative bodies only men who are definitely pledged to resist any attempt to introduce this proposed new system of legalized robbery. Some of the old party members who were elected to the House of Commons from Alberta have on more than one occasion shown themselves amenable to the influence of the export duty propagandists. Fred Davis, Conservative M. P. for East Calgary, in the last campaign spoke favorably of the plan to impose a wheat export duty, and Dr. Gershaw, the Liberal M.P. for Medicine Hat, in a speech in the House of Commons, strongly advocated an export duty on wheat going into the States to be manufactured in bond.

Ten cents a bushel export duty would mean a loss of from $25,000,000 to $40,000,000 to the farmers of Western Canada, and a heavy loss to all citizens of Western Canada, of whatever class, who are dependent indirectly upon the prosperity of agriculture. Even should a beginning be made with a much smaller tax, the loss to the farmers would be heavy.

The time to kill the projected raid upon the agricultural industry, which unfortunately has the sympathy of some representatives who were elected largely by farmer votes, is now. The campaign should be met by a definite counter offensive before it makes further headway.

* * *

Mr. Bowen, the new Liberal leader, wisely pointed out in the Legislature that if the revenues of the past year had been less than they were, and if the expenditure had been greater, there might have been a deficit instead of a surplus for 1925.

Without a Dissenting Vote, the Legislature Urges Readjustment of Soldier Settlers' Obligations

Only Objection to Resolution Comes From New Liberal Leader, Who Considers Action by Assembly Unnecessary—Bowen, However, Is Deserted by Party and Does Not Vote—Mrs. McClung Joins U. F. A., Labor and Independents in Vote on New Factories Act—Other Liberals Opposed

Special Correspondence

Bowen Becomes the Liberal Leader

Takes Place of C. R. Mitchell, Who Is Elevated to the Supreme Court

MONDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 15.—At the opening of the Assembly today, J. C. Bowen, (Edmonton) took his place as House leader of the Liberals, the decision having been come to at a caucus this morning.

FELICITATIONS TO MITCHELL

Premier Brownlee took occasion to express the felicitations of the Assembly to C. R. Mitchell, on his elevation to the Supreme Court. While not at all unexpected, yet few had thought that the seat occupied on Friday by Mr. Mitchell would be occupied by another today.

The members on the Government side had always had the highest regard for Mr. Mitchell, and expressed their congratulations. He was removed from a rather hopeless position. It must have been a tax, even on a person of his long legislative experience, to take the position of opposition leader in face of a Government carrying on so sincerely and well, and with a record that left little room for criticism, and to lead a party entirely without hope.

Mr. Brownlee also took occasion to extend his felicitations to Mr. Bowen and to express the hope that in his work as leader he would follow the example of his predecessors. He hoped that his work as leader would be such a conspicuous success that when the Liberal convention was held he would be the victim to be placed in the position of Provincial Liberal leader, and would be placed before the sacrificial fires with unanimity.

THE NEW LEADER REPLIES

Mr. Bowen, who on rising was again received with cheers, joined in the congratulations to Mr. Mitchell on his elevation to the Supreme Court Bench. In the Premier's jovial allusion to a sacrifice, it might be a case of being one of the faithful few who did not bow before the altar of Baal, with the ultimate consequence that it was the priests of Baal that would be sacrificed.

Geo. Headley said that Mr. Mitchell and himself had been together in the Assembly longer than any other members, and he wished to join in the expressions of congratulation.

VARIOUS BILLS ADVANCED

First reading was given to a bill amending the Village Act.

Bills incorporating Calgary Y.W.C.A. and amending the Red Deer Charter were given third reading.

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN

Mrs. McClung, when the Insurance Act was under discussion, asked why it was, when railway companies were issuing policies to cover train journeys, they would compensate a man for the loss of a limb, while in respect to a woman no insurance was paid unless in case of death.

The Premier said that the Government had no power to compel companies to issue policies, while Mr. Bowen said some companies had now removed the distinction.

The clauses of the Insurance Act, comprising 497 clauses, were finally passed, with the exception of a few regarding fees, etc., to be paid by companies and agents, which were allowed to stand over.

OBJECTS TO DOUBLE FEE FOR AUCTIONEERS

W. M. Washburn, U.F.A. (Stony Plain), objected to a regulation in the Municipal District Act giving councils power to license and regulate auctioneers, pedlars, hawkers, and transient traders. Several municipalities had excessive fees on auctioneers.

The Premier said that this clause had been in the Act for several years, and there had been no objections. The councils were only allowed to impose fees for regulation, not for revenue, in the case of auctioneers, and they were nominal.

M. C. McKeen, U.F.A. (Lac Ste. Anne), and several other members thought the clause was a protection to the local auctioneer. Mr. McKeen would like to see the fees on hawkers prohibitive, as these people were of no benefit to the district or to the Province, and the storekeepers were affected by them.

The clause which gives the councils power to impose fees on the classes mentioned above, was passed.

BONUSING OF INDUSTRIES

On the clause prohibiting municipalities from bonusing or granting exemption from taxes to industries, L. A. Giroux and several other members raised objection.

D. R. Galbraith, U.F.A. (Nanton), thought there were certain cases where municipalities might have power to set reduced taxation, such as the Raymond factory, and similar industries. The cities now had this power. He did not, however, favor bonuses.

Jos. Dechene, Liberal (Beaver River), stated that councils had no power to bonus doctors, agricultural societies, etc. Why should they not have power to bonus creameries? This clause was stood over.

In connection with draining of ditches, Mr. McKeen was of the opinion that residents in districts with good ditches should have to put in and maintain culverts giving access to their properties. This clause was being discussed when the House adjourned at 6 p.m.

IS PLUMPING PERMISSIBLE?

M. C. McKeen objected to a clause which declared a ballot spoiled unless a voter voted for a certain number of candidates. There might be cases where electors had to vote for candidates who were distasteful to them, or lose their votes.

Messrs. Dechene and Mills took the same view, while Mr. Carson, U.F.A. (Sturgeon), said that an amendment of this kind would defeat the whole object of the present system.

The clause in question was allowed to stand over for further discussion.

Mr. McKeen, who is a persistent questioner in committee, when the Assembly was discussing valuation, asked how actual cost values could be ascertained for assessment purposes, and whether some general principle could not be laid down in the Act.

Premier Brownlee said the only way was to get the judgment of the people. So many factors entered into valuation that it was impossible to define it in a general statute.

At 10 o'clock progress on the bill was reported, and the Assembly adjourned.

The Assembly by Monday evening had passed the greater part of the two largest bills of the session, the Insurance Act and the Municipal District Act, through committee.

While the presentation by H. G. Reid of his third budget, showing a substantial estimated surplus for 1926, was the principal event of the week in the Legislative Assembly, good progress was made in the advancement of legislation. In the first vote of the week, the new Liberal leader found himself at variance with the other members of his party; in the vote on the new Factories Act, Mrs. McClung voted against her party and in favor of this social legislation, which had the solid support of the Farmer, Labor and Independent members.

Ask Revaluation of Land and Equipment of Soldier Settlers

Only Dissenting Voice When Love's Motion Presented, Is That of J. C. Bowen, the New Liberal Leader

TUESDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 16.—The Legislature was practically unanimous in support of a resolution brought forward by J. R. Love, U.F.A. (Vegreville), and seconded by M. C. McKeen, U.F.A. (Lac Ste. Anne), asking the Dominion Govern-

ment to revalue land and equipment of soldier settlers.

The only dissenting voice was that of J. C. Bowen, the new leader of the Liberal party, who did not think it necessary, as the Dominion were already contemplating this legislation, and considered it "a joke" and "gush" for the Province to send forward this resolution to the Dominion.

However, when the vote was taken, Mr. Bowen did not express his dissent audibly.

The resolution was in the following terms:

> Whereas, the Canadian Pacific Railway Company, and other large land companies are re-valuating their lands in Western Canada and making a substantial reduction in the price of same to new settlers;
>
> And whereas, a great number of returned soldiers, farming under the Soldier Settlement Board, have abandoned their farms; and those who remain under this Board, are still obligated to pay for their farms at inflated war values which in many cases make it extremely difficult to carry on under normal conditions;
>
> And whereas, in the case of abandoned Soldier Settlement Board farms these farms are in most cases sold to new settlers at a re-valuated price;
>
> Therefore, this Legislature is of the opinion that in addition to five stock reductions already made, the Dominion Government should place returned soldiers, farming under the Soldier Settlement Board, on an equality with new settlers by making an equitable readjustment of their obligations to the said Board in respect to land and equipment, and that in such readjustment, due consideration be given to first payments already made by such returned soldiers.

Mr. Love said that he was bringing the matter to the attention of the Assembly because various organizations had been endeavoring to centre public attention to this question. This was the purpose of the resolution.

In his own district, out of 37 soldier settlers, 19 had been forced off already, through economic conditions, and possibly in some cases by unfitness. Farms which had been bought by soldiers at $32 per acre were now being sold at $17. Many soldiers were considering abandoning S.S.B. land and taking up new land at cheaper prices. Something should be done to give the soldiers an equal opportunity with others.

BOWEN EXPRESSES DISSENT

J. C. Bowen, Liberal (Edmonton), said it was a question if farm equipment was less in price now than when the settlers were going on the land. A similar resolution to this had gone through every session since 1921. This sending of notices to Ottawa was becoming a pastime, and beyond what was required of this Legislature. He was willing to do anything legitimate to help the settlers, but was not in favor of this resolution.

SAYS MANY MISFITS AMONG SETTLERS

The big mistake was made in the selection of the men who were allowed to go on as soldier settlers. Many were carrying on successfully, and making no complaint. There had to be a weeding out process.

OTHER MEMBERS FAVOR RESOLUTION

W. M. Washburn, U.F.A. (Stony Plain), supported the resolution. Action should have been taken by the Dominion long before this time. The men were put on the land under conditions which no old time farmer could have stood. He was amazed at the assertions of the leader of the opposition.

S. A. Carson, U.F.A. (Sturgeon), said that fifty per cent. of the boys who went on under the S.S.B. scheme had been obliged to leave their farms. During the war nothing was too good for these boys, but now it seemed we were more anxious to help the new immigrants than to help the boys who had done so much for us during the war.

L. A. Giroux, Liberal (Grouard), said that he was in favor of the spirit and substance of the resolution, but questioned whether it was necessary when the Dominion Government was taking action. The revaluation of the livestock last year was part of the general policy. Everyone knew the farms should be reduced in price 50 per cent. He believed the Alberta Legislature should do something as well for the returned men, instead of sending resolutions to Ottawa. He did not doubt the sincerity of the mover of the resolution, though some might think it was done for political effect. He would support the resolution.

MAD TWO BOYS IN WAR

G. W. Smith, U.F.A. (Red Deer), said many of the soldier settlers in his district had been compelled to leave the land, and many more were making a grand struggle to hold on in the hope that they would get some relief. Two sons of his who had returned from overseas had bought land at $37 per acre, which today was only worth $25. Teams which had cost $400 could now be bought for $200. Many others were in the same position. They could not succeed and would not succeed under these circumstances. His own sons had a better chance than many others, because they had some experience and were working in co-operation with him.

Mr. Smith did not agree with the last speaker that it was a Provincial matter. It was the duty of the Dominion to put this thing right.

Mr. Giroux here stated that he did not suggest that the Province should take over the Dominion's responsibility.

Nelson Smith, U. F. A. (Olds), also supported the resolution.

Mrs. McClung said that she was in favor of this resolution, whichever way it came up, though she was not in favor of these constant resolutions to Ottawa. Anyway, she would support it for luck. She thought that at the end of the resolution something might be added offering the co-operation of the Provincial Department of Agriculture in making the adjustment.

SOLDIERS WANT TO BE LEFT ALONE AFTER READJUSTMENT

Mr. Love evidently misunderstood Mrs. McClung's suggestion, interpreting it to mean that the Provincial Department of Agriculture should assist in advising the settlers, for he said the settlers would be well satisfied if the Government would make the revaluation, and then leave them alone. The numerous S. S. B. officials were only adding to the costs of the scheme, for which the soldiers had to pay.

Messrs. Shields, Ennenauer, Matheson, Pingle, Sparks, Cameron, Marshall, Henry, Moore, Dechene and Mills spoke in support of the resolution, and stated they would vote for it.

Mr. Marshall suggested to the Government that they might accede to the request made by the Provincial Command of the G. W. V. A. for $2,000 to assist them in their work for soldiers' widows.

Mr. Dechene said that there had been many cases in his constituency where fraudulent sales had been made to soldiers and commissions extorted, and one man had gone to prison for actions of this kind.

CO-OPERATION BETWEEN DOMINION AND PROVINCE

Geo. Hoadley said there was a close co-operation between the Provincial Department of Agriculture and the Soldier Settlement Board, and the Province was affording all the help it could. He was surprised that Mr. Bowen had taken exception to the resolution. A similar resolution had been sent from the Saskatchewan Assembly, of which Chas. Dunning, now a member of the Dominion Cabinet, was premier, only as recently as January of this year. The Minister objected to Mr. Bowen using the words "joke" and "slush." Mr. Bowen said that he did not recollect using the word "slush" and if he did, would withdraw it. It was unintentional. Mrs. McClung said Mr. Bowen used the word "gush."

Continuing, Mr. Hoadley said that land that had been abandoned by soldier settlers was being sold to new settlers at enormous reductions. Was there the slightest amount of fairness in it? No one should have a bad word to say of the resolution.

Mr. Love, in closing, said they should pass the resolution, if only to assure the settlers and their comrades that they were in sympathy with them.

The resolution was then passed without a dissenting voice.

NEW BILLS ARE INTRODUCED

Following the disposal of the resolution, the Assembly proceeded to consider bills.

Perren Baker moved the first reading of a bill to amend the School Act; also first reading of a bill to amend the Department of Education Act.

Geo. Hoadley moved first readings of bills to amend the Medical Professions Act and the Bills of Sale Act.

Perren Baker moved second reading of a bill to amend the School Assessment Act.

In committee, an amendment to the Act to amend the Noxious Weed Act was added that would enable a farmer to carry back to his farm from an elevator, mill or warehouse, screenings otherwise prohibited from removal.

Bills to amend the Societies Act, and to provide for the Prevention and Suppression of Fires, sponsored by R. G. Reid, were passed through the committee stage.

Consideration of the Municipal Districts Act was then resumed, and a number of clauses passed.

L. A. Giroux contended that advertising in newspapers should, in some cases, supersede the practice of sticking up notices in post offices and on telephone poles, where they could be seen by no one.

R. G. Reid, in answer, said the Government considered it undesirable to clutter up the Act with too many statutory provisions. No law could protect a man against his own neglect. Notices in case of assessment were sent to every person affected. He agreed that the present system was not all that could be desired, but there was no way to guarantee that everyone would see a notice.

The only other discussion took place with regard to appeals to judges and to public utility commission, but no changes were made in the bill.

Assembly Discusses Care of Indigents

Premier Brownlee Expects That Financial Situation Between Province and Municipalities Will Be Placed on Better Basis

WEDNESDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 17.—Premier Brownlee announced today, while the Assembly was discussing the question of indigents, that as the Province was emerging from a period of restriction into an apparent period of prosperity, they would consider during the coming year the introduction of measures, in conjunction with municipalities, which would tend to put the financial situation, as between municipalities and the Province, on a better basis. The statement was made during a discussion on certain clauses of a bill amending the Village Act with respect to indigents.

OBJECTIONS TO EIGHT HOURS DAY

A number of letters from employers objecting to the application of the eight-hour day or forty-eight hour week were laid on the table.

The Premier announced that a synopsis of the letters in connection with the E. D. & B. C. railway negotiations was being prepared, and would be submitted shortly.

Premier Brownlee moved second reading of a bill amending the Trustee Act. This bill is non-contentious, and was put through committee.

VILLAGES FEEL BURDEN OF INDIGENTS

R. G. Reid moved the second reading of a bill to amend the Village Act, and this was given.

On the bill being discussed in committee, a number of members stressed the desirability of aid being given villages in connection with indigents, as villages were small units of population, and the tax burden on them was very heavy.

W. H. Shields, U.F.A. (Macleod), thought that village areas should combine into larger units and pool the costs. The executive of the Municipal District Association was not averse to this clause.

Robt. Pearson, Independent (Calgary), thought that the Province should bear half the cost of indigents, as they did in the Mothers' Allowance Act, while Geo. Mills, Liberal (Athabasca), thought the Province should bear the total cost.

L. A. Giroux, Liberal (Grouard) and M. J. Connor, U.F.A. (Warner), advanced suggestions along the same lines.

Geo. McLachlan, U.F.A. (Pembina), said the cost to the Province would be half a million dollars a year, and would not be practicable at present.

R. C. Marshall, Liberal (Calgary), was in favor of devoting the annual increase in liquor revenue to the relief of indigents.

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS MUST BE RESPONSIBLE

Stating that the cost to the Province would be at least half a million dollars, R. G. Reid said that the Government could not consider the matter at present. There was no doubt the present system was not satisfactory, and the Government were trying to find a solution. As a matter of fact, the situation could never be satisfactory. The only satisfactory situation was when people met their responsibilities and were able to pay their way. It was the intention of the Government this year to make a study of the whole field of revenue and taxation, and its application to Municipalities.

The present situation with regard to villages would come within the purview of this inquiry, and they would try to evolve a better system. It was a question whether the Province ought to assume any obligation in the matter of indigents.

ADVOCATES HOME FOR OLD PEOPLE

M. C. McKeen, U.F.A. (Lac St. Anne), advocated the establishment of a home for old people. When a man or woman had done long years of service to the State he or she was entitled to consideration.

Mr. Reid said he would not like the impression to go abroad that the Province was not making any provision for the aged. They were. The old age pension scheme proposed by the Dominion Government would also be applicable.

J. C. Bowen, Liberal Leader, said that indigents, mothers' allowances, etc., had cost the city of Edmonton $36,407 last year. Commissions and investigations were not the way to get anywhere. If the Province was going to put all methods of taxation under control of the Government, municipalities and other sections of the country would have to revolt against being taxed to the limit.

DOMINION, PROVINCIAL AND MUNICIPAL TAXATION

Premier Brownlee said he agreed that this matter should be thoroughly discussed. The municipalities might consider that the Province was encroaching on their taxation rights, but the Province found the Dominion was encroaching on theirs. The taxation powers of the Dominion were not limited by the British North America Act. The more the Dominion widened their basis of taxation, the more they narrowed the field of the Province. The Dominion did not seem willing to give up any of their taxing powers.

If the leader of the opposition was in the same position as the Government, he would do exactly the same as they were doing. The municipalities were crying out about the burden of taxation, and yet suggesting that the Government should undertake fresh expenditures.

EMERGING FROM DIFFICULT PERIOD

The Province was emerging from a difficult period. It had put its house in better financial shape than for some time past, by reason of increased prosperity and cutting down expenditure. In the past three or four years they had not undertaken any increased expenditures without very great consideration. The first consideration was to take care of our present expenditure and get our finances in good shape. They had hope this year that the Dominion Government would examine some of these irritating taxation problems.

There was something to be said on both sides, said the Premier. The Province sympathized with the municipalities, but there was the difficulty of determining, if the Province took over relief, how many people would claim relief. People were claiming relief from the Provincial Government whom they found were not entitled to consideration. The demand for relief increased whenever the Province assumed the burden. The Province would be foolish to take any definite action with regard to the aged until they found out the intentions of the Dominion.

The Province could not see its way clear in this year's estimates to take care of the requests of the municipalities, but they did promise an exhaustive study of them.

The biggest work since 1905 was the reorganization of the field of revenue and expenditure. The Government would carry on this work this year.

HAS REASON FOR OPTIMISM RE ELECTION

Here opposition members queried how the Premier was so optimistic the Government would be able to carry on after the election. The Premier's retort was that optimism based on obvious facts was always worth while, and when they had to look round the opposition benches every day to see if anyone else had resigned, was it any wonder the Government were optimistic? (Laughter).

SUGGESTS LIQUOR PROFITS FOR INDIGENTS

Mrs. McClung said that when auto taxes were imposed autoists did not mind paying them for good roads. If they traced back the cause of indigents they would find it largely lay with the liquor business. Why not use the liquor profits in the same way to support the indigents?

She objected to the Mothers' Allowance Act being described as charity. No women should be humiliated as some were by municipal officers. The Mothers' Allowance Act was not a charity; it was a recognition that motherhood was a benefit to the State.

Following the discussion, the Village Act amending bill was passed through committee without further discussion. The clause on which the discussion arose provides that every village shall make provision for the maintenance or partial maintenance of its indigent residents and for their care and treatment when sick.

The School Assessment Act was passed through committee without discussion. It has reference to technical matters.

The Municipal District Act was advanced a number of clauses prior to the adjournment. The clause limiting tax on grain elevators to $50 was eliminated.

The only discussion on the bill was confined to a representation by Mr. Giroux that the initialling of the assessment roll by the secretary-treasurer should not be taken as prima facie evidence that tax notices had been sent, where the secretary-treasurer and assessor were the same person.

Premier Brownlee and R. G. Reid could not see any necessity for any further addition to this clause and it was passed. The only object to the clause was to protect the municipality against action on a technical error.

McKeen Urges That X Be Allowed In Marking Ballots

Proposal Strongly Opposed by Several Members—Danger of Creating New Confusion—Brownlee Expresses Views

THURSDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 18.—The introduction of the Budget by R. G. Reid, Provincial Treasurer, was the main business of Thursday's session.

In answer to questions by R. C. Marshall, Liberal (Calgary), Premier Brown-

he stated that early next week he hoped the report of the redistribution committee would be presented.

Mr. Marshall mentioned the existence of an official map showing sixty seats, and complained that he had not seen it.

The Speaker ruled that this was not the time for a debate on redistribution.

Speaking on the same matter at a later date, in the afternoon, another Liberal, Geo. Mills, Athabasca, who is a member of the redistribution committee, took exception to Mr. Marshall's statement, saying that the committee was acting honestly, and resented the inferences made.

Mr. Marshall asked the Premier if he would bring up the matter of the by-elections, and Mr. Brownlee promised that this would be done.

USING THE CROSS ON BALLOTS

An interesting discussion, adjourned at the suggestion of the Premier in order that full consideration should be given, took place on a resolution sponsored by S. C. McKeen, U. F. A. (Lac Ste. Anne), asking the House to declare that the Alberta Election Act should be amended to permit a voter at his discretion to use either the "X" mark or the figure "1" in marking his choice, where he desires to plump for one candidate only. This was seconded by Gordon Forster, U.F.A. (Sand Hills).

In introducing his motion, Mr. McKeen said that out of 162,000 votes cast in the 1923 liquor plebiscite, 7,125 were spoiled. In Edmonton, 3,254 were spoiled, Calgary 567, Medicine Hat 252. There were very few constituencies where less than 50 were spoiled. The total spoils were enough to affect the issue of an election. He did not argue that all were spoiled because of being marked with a cross, but a large percentage were.

W. T. Henry, Liberal (Edmonton), said that in the by-election in Edmonton, 1,382 spoiled ballots, or 18 per cent. of the total votes, were indicated by a cross. Other countries allowed the cross to be used.

Geo. McLachlan, U. F. A. (Pembina), was against the motion, arguing that there was a usual 4 per cent. spoilage at all elections, and the percentage at the liquor plebiscite was no larger. The difficulties of the returning officers would be added to, and it would be a mistake to go back to the old system.

Geo. Mills, Liberal (Athabasca), and J. W. Heffernan, Liberal (Edmonton), supported the resolution. J. C. Buckley, U. F. A. (Gleichen) and Donald Cameron, U. F. A. (Innisfail), opposing.

Russell Love, U. F. A. (Wainwright) made the suggestion that in a recount those ballots marked with a cross should not be disqualified. Mr. McKeen said that he would be willing to accept this suggestion in place of his own motion.

PREMIER OUTLINES DIFFICULTIES

The proposal had a great deal of merit, said Premier Brownlee, and should be given much reflection. It was a principle of English law that the expressed wish of the voter should, wherever possible, prevail.

From the contrary side, there was a question if it would not be a hindrance to the carrying out of the new Election Act. If that law meant anything, it meant that we have come to the conclusion that electors should be encouraged to exercise more than one choice. Did we wish to encourage or discourage plumping?

The suggested alteration would possibly create confusion in the minds of the voters, and more spoiled ballots. It might also make the work of the returning officers harder. Then there was the possibility that bribery might be exercised, if the resolution made it easier to identify a ballot. Bribery and corruption were passing out of our political life, but were not entirely eliminated yet.

In conclusion, the Premier suggested an adjournment, so that the question could be thoroughly considered. If the resolution were adopted, he would not like to see it incorporated in the first part of the act as an instruction to voters, but rather as something to be used in appeals and recounts only.

The debate was adjourned by Gordon Forster.

WILL NOT ALLOCATE WILD LANDS TAX

A motion by J. Dechene, Liberal (Beaver River), that Wild Land Taxes should be spent within the municipality or improvement district where collected, was defeated after a short discussion by a vote of 38-8, Liberals comprising the eight votes, while Mrs. McClung, R. Pearson (Independent) and the two Labor members voted with the Government. M. C. McKeen, U. F. A. (Lac Ste. Anne) did not vote. During the debate, Mr. McKeen said that though he had seconded the motion last year, he could not support it this year, the Government having stated that the whole question of revenue and expenditure would be taken up within the year.

Mr. Dechene claimed that municipalities were paying in much more in Wild Lands Taxes than they received back from the Government, while the Provincial Treasurer declared that taxation would not be reduced by the proposed change, but increased.

SCHOOL GRANTS ACT EXPLAINED

Perren Baker moved the first reading of the School Grants Act amendments, explaining that the amendments provided for a supplementary system of equalization grants for the benefit of weaker districts. There would be no change in ordinary grants.

The executive of the Trustees' Association had approved of the amendments.

Mr. Hoadley introduced a measure dealing with the Stallion Enrolment Act, and also proposed second reading of the amendments to the Mothers' Allowance Act, which provided relief to mothers whose husbands were totally incapacitated and bed-ridden.

Premier Brownlee moved the recommitment of the Lethbridge Northern Colonization Act.

Pass Second Reading of Factories Act by 39 Votes to 6

U. F. A., Independent and Labor Members in Solid Support—Liberal Ranks Broken When Mrs. McClung Supports Bill

FRIDAY'S SITTING

EDMONTON, March 15.—Having first unanimously approved a resolution asking for the appointment of an Alberta representative on the Board of Vancouver Harbor Commissioners, the Assembly spent the remainder of the afternoon debating the second reading of the Factories Act, closing with a division, in which the Government obtained a majority of 39-6, Mrs. McClung, R. Pearson and the two Labor members voting for the bill, with only Liberals against.

ALBERTA REPRESENTATIVE AT VANCOUVER

In moving the resolution for the appointment of a representative at Vancouver, Premier Brownlee stated that the Government had already asked for this. They had received acknowledgement of their letter, but no promise of the appointment being made. There was everything to be said in favor of this appointment and no valid objection.

Vancouver's development depended largely on increasing trade between Alberta and British Columbia. The more the trade of Alberta with the world grew, the more business would pass through Pacific ports. Alberta was primarily at present a grain growing Province. Two years ago, 35 million bushels of grain had passed through Vancouver; last year 50 millions, and it was expected this year that amount would be exceeded. No other branch of trade passing through Vancouver was so large.

Two years ago Alberta had criticised the management of Vancouver harbor, and as a result a commission was appointed, the findings of which had largely substantiated the position taken by Alberta. The conditions in Vancouver should be such as the grain grower could have confidence in. Excessive tolls and charges should not be placed on the grain trade. Vancouver might some day rival Montreal, but they did not want to see it built up on excessive tolls on grain. Alberta had as large an interest in the harbor as B. C., and should have representation on the Board. The Government had no nominee for the position, the selection would be left with those whose interests were in the grain business.

J. C. Bowen, Liberal leader, said he was glad to be able to co-operate with the Government in this matter. The grain growers were entitled to such regulations at Vancouver as would not place an undue burden upon them. Alberta could almost be considered a maritime Province, as we were only 700 miles from the sea. The development of our interests would be furthered by the development of the Pacific coast.

The resolution was then carried unanimously.

LIBERALS OPPOSE NEW FACTORY ACT

Alex. Ross, Minister of Public Works, in moving the second reading of the bill for the "Protection of Persons Employed in Factories, Shops, and Office Buildings," said the bill had been first introduced in this session but had been held over so that all interests concerned could be heard. The only clauses to which exception had been taken were clause 20, providing that the minimum wage for male workers should not be less than that for female workers, and clause 23, which provided that hours per week should not exceed 54, with the proviso that the inspector might, in individual cases, permit employment for a longer period by reason of trade, accident, or other necessity; and provided further that after January 1st, 1927, the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council might proclaim that hours of labor might not exceed 48 per week.

The only other Province in Canada which provided for less than a 10-hour day was B. C., but the demand for the

eight-hour day was universal. The League of Nations had declared in favor of it, and five nations had gone on record for it. However, an eight-hour day universally would be out of the question, because some industries were competing with similar industries in other Provinces. Exemptions would also be made in the nine-hour day.

LIBERAL LEADER OPPOSES

J. C. Bowen, opposition leader, stated that he was opposed to the general application of the eight-hour day. Seasonal occupations would be adversely affected. He mentioned the petitions which had been received, and said that we were endeavoring to encourage industries in this Province. This Act would eliminate some. A principle that could be applied in specific cases should not be carried to the extreme.

PREMIER BROWNLEE EXPRESSES VIEWS

Premier Brownlee said the principle of regulating hours of labor had already been established in Alberta and other Provinces. The Government of Alberta were just as fully alive to the necessity of assisting the development of industry as any other Province. Alberta was becoming an industrial Province. Agriculture was the big industry, with coal next, and the coal operators were satisfied with the eight-hour day. He instanced cases, such as the sugar beet industry, where the Government had given active support.

DOES NOT APPLY TO AGRICULTURE

An argument had been made that this legislation should be applied to the farmers, but this argument was not at all relevant. The object of the present legislation was to help the condition of those who had to work in a certain environment. This legislation did not apply to all classes of industry.

Some objections came from firms which were already on a 44-hour basis, which was somewhat absurd, and many others were on a 48-hour basis, and could not be possibly affected by the act. The act provided that work could be continued for longer periods under certain conditions.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED

Under the old act, he doubted if there was a single manufacturer who had been refused permission to work longer hours when he requested it. Eighty per cent. of the businesses of the Province were already on an eight-hour basis.

Those engaged in industry were entitled to every consideration, but there were certain principles they should not ignore, and no industrial development was on a solid foundation if it did not consider social conditions and other factors. Our social position was not sound until every man could maintain himself and his family in a proper way, and have those things necessary to his well being in community life.

The Premier said he would like to see representatives of capital and labor get together and discuss these matters in a reasonable way, and with regard to the welfare of the people of the Province.

The Government proposed to have a survey board appointed to help in the administration of the act.

R. C. Marshall, Liberal (Calgary), opposed the act. He quoted letters from a number of manufacturers who, he said, would be prejudicially affected by the new legislation. When he said that conditions affecting labor should be settled by consultations between employees and employers, F. M. Christophers, Labor (Rocky Mountain) said one of the companies objecting to the new legislation, and to which Mr. Marshall had made reference, had refused their employees the right to organize, and had called a policeman to escort the Rocky Mountain member off the premises. Mr. Marshall replied that if he called on the firm again he would accompany him. The Premier interjected "That would need two policemen." Farmers would not like this legislation applying to themselves. Towns and villages closest to the farmers were exempted from the provisions of the act.

WILL ONLY AFFECT UNFAIR EMPLOYERS

Fred White, Labor (Calgary) said that out of 1271 firms reporting to the Department, only 57 had registered objections to this bill. Out of over 25,000 employees who came under the provisions of the Factories Act, 19,353 were working 48 hours or less, 3,351 were working 54 hours or less, and only 1,873 were working over 54 hours per week.

The act would only affect unfair employers. The immediate demand of organized labor, he said, in answer to a question, was a 48-hour week, with an inclination for a shorter period, as machine productivity became greater.

C. S. Pingle, Liberal (Medicine Hat) said that employees in retail stores should not come under the Factories Act, but under a separate statute. The great bulk of the employees in Medicine Hat and Redcliff did not want this legislation. While he had no doubt there would be numerous exemptions from this bill, yet the impression would go throughout the world that Alberta was on an eight-hour basis. Manufacturing in Alberta was a hazardous business. He considered that he was representing, in his views, the Labor people of Medicine Hat and Redcliff, who were largely responsible for his election.

L. A. Giroux, Liberal (Grouard) and J. W. Helfernan, Liberal (Edmonton) also spoke against the bill.

On the division being taken, the vote was 29-6 for the bill. L. A. Giroux was paired with W. M. Shields, and J. A. Arnaud with J. Dechene.

First readings were given to a bill amending The Religious Societies Land Act, and a bill Amending the Maintenance Order Act, introduced by Mr. Brownlee.

HOADLEY MOVES MEDICAL PROFESSIONS ACT

Geo. Hoadley moved the second reading of the Medical Professions Act, which made it necessary for those who wished to specialize, to undergo examination. This had the approval of the medical organizations, he said. The only other change made certain exemptions in favor of religious organizations.

Reports of the Board of Visitors to public institutions were tabled, also the coal commission's report.

MEMBERSHIP CONTEST

"Laws and How They Are Made" was the subject of an address by E. E. Sparks to the Lone Ridge U. F. W. A. Local recently. In December a membership contest was entered into in competition with the U. F. A. Local. Losing by a narrow margin, the ladies gave the oyster supper which had been doubled on as a penalty and prize.

Heavy Decrease in Number Employees Since Year 1921

Figures Submitted in Legislature Show About 300 Fewer Employees

In answer to a question by R. C. Marshall in the Legislature on March 16th, Alex Ross said that the number of Government employees, with the exception of railway employees, on the dates asked for, was as follows:

Jan. 1—	Perm.	Temp.	Total
1921	2447	85	2532
1922	2326	98	2424
1923	2266	92	2358
1924	2083	144	2195
1925	2110	98	2208
1926	2101	114	2215

ELECTION MONTH OF 1921 SHOWED BIG INCREASE

A question on the subject, asked by Geo. McLachlan, U. F. A. (Pembina), showed a large and suspicious increase in employees in August, 1921, when the last Provincial Election was held. The figures were as follows:

	Perm.	Temp.	Total
Jan. 1, 1921	2447	85	2532
Aug. 12, 1921	2561	136	2697
Jan. 1, 1922	2326	98	2424
Feb. 1, 1926	2120	115	2235

PRINTING COSTS

A question asked by Jos. Dechene, Liberal (Beaver River), as to the amounts paid by the Government for printing to the firms of Henry Roche Printing Company, Edmonton, and the Camrose Job Press was answered as follows:

Henry Roche Co.: 1922, $20,602; 1923, $31,457; 1924, $49,556; 1925, $43,226.

Camrose Job Press: 1922, $425; 1923, $332; 1924, $386; 1925, $468.35.

GOVERNMENT RAILWAYS

Jos. Dechene drew attention in the Assembly last week, to a heading in the Government Weekly News Bulletin, entitled "Government Railways Have Surplus." The body of the article was all right, but the headline was misleading, as the Minister of Railways had stated in the Assembly recently that the loss on the Lacombe and North-Western Railway last year was $90,000 and on the A. & G. W. much more.

Mr. Hoadley answered that the heading was somewhat misleading, though not intentionally so. The newspapers today seemed to suffer from "headlinitis."

What Railways and Irrigation Cost the Province

Answers given on March 18th, to questions put by Donald Cameron, U. F. A. (Innisfail), in the Provincial Assembly, showed that the amount of defaulted interest charged to capital from 1921 to 1925 on the undertakings enumerated below was as follows:

E. D. & B. C. Railway	$1,945,329.83
A. & G. W. Railway	1,898,626.29
L. & N. W. Railway	76,296.66
Lethbridge Northern Irrigation	197,490.32
Drainage Districts	30,073.42
Total	$4,147,816.52

As Seen From the Press Gallery

Notes of the Week from the Alberta Legislature By JOHN MACKENZIE

The new leader of the Liberal opposition got off to a bad start, March 16th, when he was alone in opposing the resolution asking the Dominion Government to re-value the soldier settlers' lands and equipment. Every other Liberal who spoke supported the resolution emphatically.

Mrs. McClung, when Mr. Bowen was protesting the statement by one of the members that he had characterised the resolution as "slush," interjected that the word used was "gush," which is not much better and not much different.

* * *

Probably the best thought uttered during the debate was that of the mover, Russell Love, when he said that the soldiers wanted re-valuation, and after that, to be left alone. The army of officials administering the Soldiers' Settlement Board is only piling up costs to the men, and giving the country a false impression of what is being done for them. According to the men, the S. S. B. are the most persistent collectors in Western Canada.

M. C. McKeen, U. F. A. member for Lac Ste. Anne, who had a record of over two years in France with the infantry, was unable to take part in the debate, occupying the position of Speaker in the absence of Mr. McPherson.

* * *

The holding of public office in the present administration is no sinecure. Premier Brownlee admitted that he had only spent two evenings during the working week at his home since he was elevated to his present position.

* * *

That statements made in the public press that the hospitals of the Province had been neglected by Hon. Geo. Hoadley are entirely unwarranted is shown by the figures given to the Assembly. The expenditure of the Public Health Department last year was $999,110.88, as compared with $373,744.29 in 1920. The total expended for administration and grants to hospitals last year was $208,053.49, or $18,053.49 above the estimates. This is more than two-thirds of the total health expenditure in 1920. It is unfortunate that it is necessary to spend more money annually for the care of the mentally unfit, the public accounts showing a total for the year in regard to items under this head of over $300,000.

* * *

Apparently municipalities have not been taking much advantage of the power given them by the Municipal Districts Act to assess and tax minerals separately from the surface land. This provision ought to be of assistance to municipal districts where there is big oil development, or where there are coal mining areas.

* * *

The trouble in arriving at an arrangement with regard to the shipment of coal to Ontario is very disappointing, but it cannot be laid at the door of the Alberta or Ontario Governments. Shipment of coal to Ontario could not be continued profitably on a $6 freight basis. A total shipment on that basis would do no good in finding a permanent market, and only be an expense to the ratepayers of the two Provinces. The Government's action in this regard has the unanimous approval of the Assembly.

* * *

Spring is here. Irrefutable evidence of this is furnished by the circumstance that John D. Hunt, the dignified Clerk of the Executive Council, has written a poem on Alberta, and is setting it to music.

* * *

The Smithsonian Institute, Washington, 9000 A.D.—An important discovery is reported in Alberta, with the finding of the skull of homo Liberalensis, in the Parliamentary benches of the Georgian strata. A considerable amount of natural gas was found in the formation. The specimen showed considerable development of the vocal organs, but no evidence was found of expansion of the brain cavity. The species flourished for a number of years after the advent of the Caucasian race to Western America, but gradually decreased in numbers, and became extinct following an election in 1926, which marked the end of the party system of Government in that region.

* * *

The principal sport on the opposition side of the House this past week has been that of "Find the Leader." The principal sport after the next election will be that of "Find the Party."

* * *

The number of patients in the Provincial Mental Hospital at Ponoka on December 31, 1925, was 864. The expense of operation for the year was $192,000, and the salaries of around 90 of a staff totalled $114,880. The cost of maintenance of each patient works out at 85 exceptionally low figure on this basis.

* * *

Answers to a question by L. A. Gibbons revealed that of the total number of employees in the Alberta Civil Service, at February 1, 1926, 882 were born in Canada, and 1,207 born outside of Canada, the total number being 2,094. Answers given to a previous question had stated that the total number was 2,120, the difference being accounted for by temporary employees in the Telephone Department.

* * *

"Be ye therefore ready," was Premier Brownlee's reply to the Liberal leader, when he asked a question as to the probable date of the Provincial Election. The U. F. A. men, it is understood, have not set a date for it as yet, but the probabilities are strongly in favor of June or July.

* * *

The beauty of the announced budget surplus of $21,000 is that it is big enough to be called a surplus, but yet not big enough to be used as an argument for further expenditures.

* * *

It is hoped that the Provincial Legislature will prorogue at Easter. Good progress has been made so far, and the length of the session will now depend largely on the time occupied on the budget debate and on the estimates.

* * *

It might be necessary, however, to hold a short session later, if the Dominion Government makes any changes in the Natural Resources agreement, or if the Dominion Rural Credits legislation is delayed in its entrance to the House of Commons. The Province has approved of the Natural Resources agreement as at present framed, but third reading is being delayed until Ottawa approves. In regard to rural credits, the Provincial Government are delaying submission of their bill until the Dominion legislation is drafted.

* * *

Mrs. McClung has in this session, out of four divisions, voted with the Government on three.

Unanimous Report Presented by the Coal Committee

Recommends Creation of Alberta Department of Mines

The committee appointed in December, 1924, to inquire into the coal situation tabled its report in the Provincial Assembly on March 19th. The report, which is a very voluminous one, is unanimous. The members of the committee are H. M. E. Evans, chairman; R. G. Drinnan for the Alberta operators, and Frank Wheatley, representing the labor interests of the Province.

The committee recommends the creation of a Provincial Department of Mines, with a cabinet portfolio combined with some other department. It also advises the formation of an advisory council; also that when the Province obtains its Natural Resources it should exercise control over coal development.

While the principle of co-operative marketing is not suitable for carrying out on a large scale, it might be tried out to a limited extent till more complete remedies were obtainable, states the report. The coal industry is greatly over-developed, and two-thirds of the mines opened in the Province have been abandoned with heavy loss. Coal production could be much increased without increasing the number of mines now operating.

Nationalization of mines is deemed impracticable by the committee, but the Government should exercise control. The wage scale, states the report, is on a parity with other occupations. Large summer shipments of coal to Ontario are advocated, and regard is also taken to the possibilities of Alberta coal for Pacific bunkering. Saskatchewan and Manitoba markets should be held by Alberta coal.

President H. W. Wood Receives Ovation at Elnora Meeting

Warns Against Very Real Danger of Wheat Export Duty—Why Interim Payment Is Conservative

The annual meeting of the Elnora Local Wheat Pool Association was the scene of one of the largest gatherings of farmers and townspeople that has been seen in Elnora for some time, when President Wood of the Alberta Co-operative Wheat Producers, addressed the meeting.

Mr. Wood's address was most enthusiastically received by all present and many farmers went home better satisfied and with a better understanding of the many problems that the Pool has to face than they had before.

In his opening remarks Mr. Wood spoke briefly on the recent St. Paul conference. The annual turnover of some of the Pools represented was ten or twelve million dollars in comparison with an annual turnover of $300,000,000 by the Canadian Pool.

Working on Practical Lines

Canada's remarkable achievement in such a short space of time is the wonder of the world, and Mr. Wood attributed it to the fact that we have always tried to get our organization on a practical working basis from the start and thus avoid confusion.

He pointed out that U. S. farmers had co-operative movements 60 years ago, and the reason that one after another of these movements failed was because they went about building their organization in an impractical way. Today we find the U. S. farmer struggling to build a new co-operative enterprise out of the debris of several failures and the resultant confusion from previous failures is making the task much harder than it otherwise would have been.

In Alberta we are not handicapped by the confusion of a previous failure, but we must move cautiously and consolidate our ground as we go, because the one thing we have not got time to do is to make a mistake, but we have all kinds of time to make a success.

The Pool is the first step towards the solving of our present economic condition, because the first problem that we have got to solve is the one of the wrong relationship of prices. The difference between what we receive for our produce and what we pay for what we buy is the cause of the unhealthy state of agriculture at the present time.

Speaking of the export duty on wheat which the Canadian millers are endeavoring to have put on, Mr. Wood declared it was the most infamous thing that was ever attempted to be put over on the Canadian people, and unless the wheat growers of the West were fully awake to the significance of this iniquitous thing, and took steps to prevent it, they might awake some morning when it was too late and find themselves paying an additional forty or fifty million dollars a year as an export duty on their wheat.

Mr. Wood went on to show that this would inevitably build up our Canadian milling industry on a false basis, and it would mean later on that the people of Canada would have to pay for it the same as they pay for the products of any other protected industry.

Danger of Too Large Interim Payments

In speaking of the recent interim payment, Mr. Wood said that the 30c payment was a conservative one, but also all that the Board were justified in making. It was not good business, he said, to make the payment so large that a concentrated downward movement in wheat prices would endanger the Pool's operations. The failure of many of the U. S. Pools had been through making too large initial and interim payments, and the Board were only playing safe in setting the interim payment at a figure that would leave them a safe margin to work on.

With regard to the elevator question, the President said the Board were very carefully considering the whole matter, and would do what their best judgment warranted them doing, but the problem was of such magnitude that they would have to be very sure of their ground before taking any decisive action.

At the conclusion of his address Mr. Wood received a splendid ovation from the crowd who showed their appreciation of his services as their director and chairman of the Board, in no uncertain manner.

The business session and election of officers for the coming year immediately followed, and it was unanimously felt that this had been one of the best meetings that the local association has had.

DONALD CAMERON JR.,
Secretary Elnora Local.

MR. GALLOWAY SUPPORTED AMENDMENT

With reference to the report of the discussion at the U. F. A. Annual Convention on the resolution regarding the appointment of a committee of advanced students of monetary reform, we have received a letter from John Galloway of Fort Saskatchewan, pointing out that he did not support the original resolution, as might have appeared from the report; but that when an amendment was offered that the Central Board appoint a committee to carry out the proposed inquiry, he did support that amendment. Mr. Galloway informs us that he was against the original resolution but did favor the leaving of this matter in the hands of a committee appointed by the Central Board.

THE BUDGET IN BRIEF—COMPARATIVE ESTIMATES

	Actual Expenditure for 1925	Estimated Expenditure for 1926	Actual Revenue for 1925	Estimated Revenue for 1926
Public Debt	$ 3,913,767.89	$ 4,082,071.94		
Executive Council	252,743.57	269,149.09	$ 276,865.76	$ 262,420.00
Legislation	186,893.58	161,606.64	2,174.00	2,000.00
Agriculture Dept.	619,956.76	599,660.56	762,528.01	949,670.00
Attorney-General's Dept.	1,471,817.34	1,440,238.25	2,038,474.42	2,065,160.00
Education Dept.	2,668,286.28	2,119,262.08	180,240.07	209,760.00
Municipal Affairs Dept.	271,659.51	287,540.59	2,367,569.99	2,176,530.00
Provincial Secretary's Dept.	49,401.99	54,400.00	2,305,199.85	2,516,765.19
Public Health Dept.	876,151.48	923,344.09	141,219.85	265,640.00
Public Works Dept.	1,894,576.96	1,374,993.00	986,995.77	131,260.00
Railways and Telephones Dept. (Railways Branch)	51,167.86	45,946.00	4,146.14	1,500.00
Treasury Dept.	892,886.73	761,500.00	273,206.40	291,332.20
Dominion Subsidy			2,271,615.94	2,266,732.00
	$11,949,864.45	$11,677,942.91	$11,531,985.99	$11,666,362.39

SUMMARY

Surplus, 1925		$182,919.54
Net Increase of Estimated Expenditure 1926 over Actual 1925	$271,921.54	
Net Increase of Estimated Revenue 1926 over Actual 1925	134,376.41	
		137,545.13
Estimated Surplus 1926		$ 21,969.41

SURPLUS OF $21,969.41 FOR 1926 ESTIMATED BY PROVINCIAL TREASURER

(Continued from page 1)

commenced to ship refined salt by the carload. Sugar beet production last year supported a million dollar factory and gives promise of wider expansion. New settlers of a good type are finding their way to our farms. These are but a few of the evidences that the Province has entered upon a new epoch of expansion. The year 1925 was a good one in the various lines of activity that usually engage our people."

The 1925 crop on the whole had been a profitable one, although there had been unreasonable storms which had lowered the grade somewhat. The statistics and comparative figures evidenced the general good returns.

The total estimated value of all production in 1925 was $354,992,085.95, being approximately $40,000,000 greater than in 1924. Value of live stock in the same period increased $7,644,428, being now $127,070,968. The increase was entirely due to the great advance in the value of horses.

Mr. Reid then followed with a number of figures showing the comparative increases in agricultural production.

SLIGHT FALLING OFF IN DAIRY PRODUCTION

"The estimated value of Alberta's dairy products for 1925," he said, "was $23,902,000 as compared with $23,231,283 for 1924. The milk production for the year showed a falling off of approximately 5 per cent., and since the greater proportion of the surplus milk production is manufactured into creamery butter and factory cheese, it follows that any material increase or decrease in the milk production is reflected in the butter output of the creameries, and to a lesser extent in the output of the cheese factories.

"The number of creameries in operation in 1925 is estimated at 99, the pounds of butter manufactured, 19,580,000 with a selling value of $4,373,000, or 22.35 cents per pound.

[illegible] CONTROLLABLE EXPENDITURE RATE DOES REQUIRED BY U F A AMENDMENT

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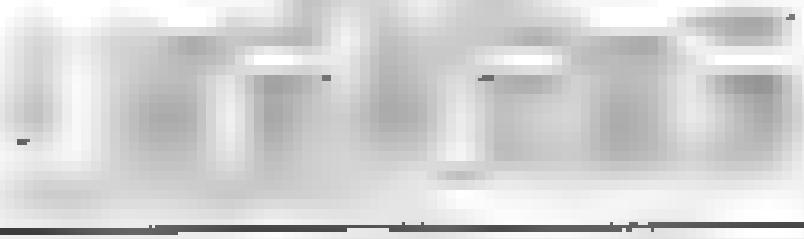

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"In addition, uncontrollable expenditures for hay relief and grasshopper campaign in 1922 required $1,109,067.85 making a total uncontrollable expenditure of $17,871,071.07.

U. F. A. ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBLE FOR $5,204,064

"This leaves a balance of $5,204,064.41, for which this Government is directly responsible in the past five years. That is to say, this sum only was spent on capital enterprises initiated by this Government during the period of its administration.

"In the past four years Public Debt, as previously stated, has increased $22,800,158.24, but this does not present the whole picture. This Government has paid off, out of the public debt of the Province, indirect liabilities which existed at December 31, 1921, and which do not now exist, to the amount of $4,759,329.17. It has reduced temporary loans by $560,000. Increase of cash on hand, additional investments in Provincial securities, and cash advanced as working capital for various services, accounts for $1,790,972.35. On the other hand, Savings Certificates have increased during the period by $2,989,283.50. Taking into consideration all these items, both sides of the story result in a net increase in debt from 1921 to 1926 of $18,939,234.42.

ALBERTA SAVINGS CERTIFICATES POPULAR

"The Savings Certificates Branch still continues to operate on a low co-efficient of administration. The net cost of operating the branch for the year 1925 was .176 or less than one-fifth of 1 per cent., the previous year's cost being .2099.

"The rate paid for this money is 4½ per cent. Old five per cent. certificates outstanding three years or longer are now being retired to the amount of $1,248,100, which will effect some saving of interest to the Province in the current year.

"This plan of investment continues to be extremely popular, the total net amount sold in 1925 was $2,149,511, exceeding that of any other two years combined. For the month of January alone in 1926, the net sales were $726,687. The total amount outstanding February 28th, 1926, in Savings Certificates was $5,774,790.40.

"The question of taxation is one that concerns not only residents of the Province but also its prospective residents. Taking the year 1922, the last year for which statistics have been prepared in the matter—it has been found that local taxation in Alberta, including taxation for Provincial and municipal purposes, is only 7.7 per cent. of the production in that year. This is a lower rate than that of any other Province west of Quebec.

"It may be noted that as a result of the new equalized assessment there will be a reduction in the total assessed valuation of the Province, of about 20 per cent. This is equivalent to a like reduction in our only direct general tax—the Supplementary Revenue Tax.

"To offset this reduction there is a considerable increase in the amount of land liable to the tax, and we also have increasing returns from other sources.

SEARCHING INQUIRY INTO REVENUE AND TAXATION

"The Government has expressed its intention of having a searching investigation made of revenue and taxation in this present year. This will include not only the Provincial field but also that of the municipalities. In addition it will take cognizance of the statutory obligations placed on the local governing bodies and their ability to bear them.

"Coming now to the estimates of revenue and expenditure for the year 1926, the details of which you have before you, I find that there will be a net increase in the estimated revenue over the actual for the year 1925, totalling $168,826.40 on income account.

"On the expenditure side there will be a net increase over 1925 of $334,856.48, in which is included an extraordinary expenditure of $130,000 made necessary on account of the general election. It has not been the custom in the past to estimate for this expenditure, as it has usually been met by warrant. Compared with former costs it might appear as if a full provision had not been made. It must be pointed out, however, that practically all the preliminary cost, such as printing, etc., has been met out of last year's expenditures, and in addition we have been able to substantially decrease the cost of elections.

"The total estimated revenue for 1926 is $11,499,852.19 and the expenditure $11,677,862.93, leaving an estimated surplus for the year 1926 of $21,989.46.

"This result has not been arrived at without revision many times over. Each department of the service has been called upon to contribute its portion to the heavy reductions that have been made. The result, however, justifies the efforts expended upon it.

"On capital account we find that our expenditure on capital works will amount to $5,314,013, against which there will be capital revenue of $2,194,150.13. There will be other sums entering into the computation of our capital requirements and borrowings for the year 1926, which, all considered, will leave a sum of $3,000,000 that will have to be raised in the current year for ordinary capital requirements.

ADVANCES TO RURAL CREDIT SOCIETIES

"In addition to investigations into a long-term system of loans to farmers, which is now in prospect, and which we believe to be essential to agricultural progress, the short-term loans under the Alberta Co-operative Credit Act have been continued. The report upon the operation of these Co-operative Credit Societies has already been laid before you. The total advances made during the year 1925, including the carry-over from the previous year, was $1,065,209.57 of which 60 per cent. has been repaid, leaving a carry-over to 1926 of $426,-850.34 as at December 31st, 1925. This is a very satisfactory showing for the year.

"Professor C. R. Fay, a highly regarded expert on co-operative credits and marketing, recently made some interesting comments on the Alberta system. Professor Fay said:

ALBERTA HAS AVOIDED PITFALLS

" 'Alberta in its existing rural credit plan has avoided most of the pitfalls with which Manitoba met and has been a valuable contribution toward the great co-operative movement.' "

" 'The properly functioning Local is the basis of the whole thing, for the borrowers have a stake in this both of money and enthusiasm. The principle upon which money is lent under the co-operative system, has advantages over the mortgage company, which does not advise a man as to how much he should borrow, but takes cognizance only of the assets which may be sold if he fails to pay. What the rural credit society must strive for, is that the loan will achieve its result. This involves supervision of exact control over a man's use of his loan', (and Professor Fay disagreed with the claim that this is interference with his personal liberty).

" 'In Alberta the loan is well secured, and on a healthy, sound basis of a series of protections, ending with the Provincial Government. The fundamentally important thing in the whole system is the Board of Directors, who are working for their communities and for the co-operative movement, and not for the financial value they receive alone.'

PROSPECTS OF INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

"There is one phase of growth that does not appear to have been emphasized, but which, I have no doubt, in future years will occupy a very prominent place in the production of wealth in Alberta. I refer to our industrial expansion.

"There is perhaps no country in the world endowed with greater supplies of power in latent form than is available here. Alberta manufacturers have not only cheap power—they have it in a variety of forms and in widely distributed localities. They have the choice of coal, crude oil, natural gas and water power. This Province has almost everything required by a great commercial nation.

VALUE OF MANUFACTURED PRODUCTS

"The value of manufactured products in 1919 was $18,788,825; 1915, $29,416,-221; 1920, $54,357,801. While we have no authentic figures beyond 1923, it is certain that the development has continued in the same or a greater ratio.

"Our industrial expansion can only be limited by the number of people settled within range of our trading centres. It will therefore grow in proportion to our population.

"Business conditions continue to be very satisfactory throughout the Province, with payments and collections especially good. The lumber and building trades show marked increases over 1924. There is also a renewed activity in land transfers. The acreage sold has shown a steady increase in each year from 1922 onward. In 1925 there was a greater acreage sold in the three Western Provinces than in the three years from 1922 to 1924 combined.

SPREAD KNOWLEDGE OF OUR RESOURCES

"I have in my remarks today attempted to cover in a general way, not only the usual review of our finances and the budget for the current year, but the wider field of our economic resources; and it is fitting, I think, that this should be done. We ourselves of course, realise the greatness and importance of our undeveloped riches, since it is upon these that our faith in Alberta is built; but this should be a matter of more general knowledge, for we need capital to make this wealth completely available; we need man-power to do the work that remains to be done; we need an access of the spirit of co-operation to make all these things contribute to our prosperity in the most effective and lasting way."

Inquire Into Alleged Irregularities in Athabasca

Parliament Accepts Kennedy's Motion—What the Corrupt Practices Inquiry Act Provides

It will be gratifying to all citizens of Alberta who wish to see high standards prevail in the conduct of elections, to learn that the House of Commons on March 19th adopted the address moved by Donald M. Kennedy, M.P. for Peace River, calling for an inquiry under the Corrupt Practices Inquiry Act, into alleged irregularities in the conduct of the last Federal election in Athabasca. One or more judges of the supreme court of Alberta will conduct the inquiry.

The value of the procedure under this particular act, is that it is directed against no particular persons, but provides for full inquiry into any irregularities, by no matter whom these irregularities may have been committed. Thus, if a losing candidate had anything to fear from investigation into the conduct of the election by himself or his supporters, he would run serious risks by urging an inquiry under this act. It may be, that it is for this reason that in the past the Corrupt Practices Inquiry Act has been invoked on only one occasion, and that many years ago in the later half of the Nineteenth Century.

Petition Against Kennedy's Election Through Cross' Firm

Kennedy Will Not Be Influenced in His Fight for Athabasca Inquiry

OPEN INQUIRY NOT ASKED FOR AS IN ATHABASCA PETITION

Following upon the action of Donald M. Kennedy, M.P., in placing on the order paper of the House of Commons a resolution calling for an inquiry into alleged irregularities in Athabasca Federal constituency, a petition has been filed through the law office in which C. W. Cross, the member declared elected in Athabasca, is a partner, against the election of Mr. Kennedy in Peace River. We understand that no action can be taken on any such petition until after the present session of Parliament.

The petition, which is filed under the Controverted Elections Act, alleges switching, changing and substitution of ballots, bribery, treating, personation and other illegal and corrupt practices. It also charges that because certain polls were not opened, there was in law no election held in the Peace River district, and lastly that false returns were filed regarding the declaration of election expenses.

Appears to Be Personal in Intent

The petition would appear to be directed against Mr. Kennedy personally, for were it prompted by a desire simply to open the seat for a new election, a basis undoubtedly existed in the fact that 225 electors were disfranchised by failure to open Poll Nos. 66, 67 and 68, at Keota, Paddow and Balm.

MR. SPEAKMAN PASSES CRITICAL POINT

Our members will be glad to learn that Alfred Speakman, M.P., who became dangerously ill shortly after the opening of the session at Ottawa, and found it necessary to undergo an operation, passed the critical point about ten days ago, according to a letter which we have received from H. E. Spencer, M.P., secretary of the U. F. A. group. Mr. Speakman will have the good wishes of all for a speedy recovery.

So far as corrupt practices are concerned, it is obvious that these could hardly be possible by a candidate, unless he were in control of the election machinery. Mr. Kennedy disclaims any knowledge of these, and is of the opinion that the charges are primarily for the purposes of personal attack. The fact that Mr. Kennedy is the member who undertook the responsibility, in behalf of the petitioners, for attacking the conduct of the Athabasca election, has a significant bearing upon the matter. The petition against Mr. Kennedy was filed by John Bernard Page, through the office, as noted above, of Messrs. Short, Cross and McLean, of which firm C. W. Cross is the senior partner.

In spite of the fact that a recount in the Peace River election was held in Edmonton for twelve days, none of the charges mentioned in the Peace River petition was suggested.

Kennedy Will Not Be Deterred

Mr. Kennedy is prepared to stand by the returns filed as his official election expenses, and is also determined that no action now taken in respect to Peace River shall prevent him from pressing forward in the matter of the Athabasca charges. This is evidenced by the fact that on March 19th, the House of Commons adopted, at the instance of Mr. Kennedy, an address calling for an inquiry into alleged irregularities in the conduct of the Athabasca election, and to appoint one or more judges of the Alberta supreme court to conduct the inquiry.

It is worthy of note that Mr. Kennedy undertook the responsibility for the filing of the Athabasca petition as long ago as January 29th last, following requests made by the Annual Convention of the U. F. A. and requests from the Athabasca U. F. A. Constituency Association. Mr. Kennedy's resolution was placed on the order paper at Ottawa on February 4th, and in it no allegations of a personal nature were made, but a request for an inquiry under the Corrupt Practices Inquiry Act before one or more Supreme Court Judges. Mr. Cross, who was declared elected in Athabasca, was the Attorney-General in the Stewart administration until dismissed by the then Premier, Charles Stewart.

Neither Mr. Kennedy's petition nor the resolution charges Mr. Cross with corrupt or illegal practices, but it is alleged that such practices took place, and it is asked that a commission investigate them. Under this procedure, the commission has power to inquire into any alleged irregularities, by no matter whom committed, and no defeated candidate whose own record were not clear, would be likely to seek such an inquiry. The petition made in respect to Peace River, however, is under another act, the Controverted Election Act, which is directed specifically against the winning candidate, and not to an open inquiry into any irregularities in the conduct of the election.

It will be remembered that Mr. Kennedy's total election expenses were about $750.00.

News of Organization

JUNIOR ESSAY CONTEST

The outcome of the Junior Essay Contest will be announced in an early issue of "The U. F. A." and some worthy Junior will be $5.00 richer thereby.

LUNAN ADDRESSES MEETINGS

A. Lunan, director for Vegreville, has addressed a considerable number of meetings during the past month, and writes that he is meeting with a hearty response and a great deal of encouragement.

EVARTS LOCAL REORGANIZED

Evarts Local reports reorganization, with A. Stanforth and A. Duncan as officers.

STAR LOCAL ORGANIZED

John Kesmir, of Leechore, has organized the Star Local, near Lamont. John Pulitsky and Peter Tychowsky are the officers.

AGAINST WHEAT EXPORT DUTY

Co-operative buying has been of great benefit to Grandcourt Local, writes John H. Haug, secretary. At a recent meeting, an export duty on wheat was discussed, and the opinion of the Local was that it would be the biggest calamity that could happen the farmers of the West.

NEW LOCAL IN GRASSY LAKE DISTRICT

Pettig Local, in the Grassy Lake district, was organized recently by George J. Pettig, who was elected secretary of the new organization. E. C. Gaschke is president.

NEW LOCAL IN BASHAW DISTRICT

G. Rosse, director for Camrose, has organized a new Local in the Bashaw district, to be known as Buffalo Lake Local. Lynn Willson and Fred. John Pellowe are the officers.

HAIGHT LOCAL ORGANIZED

H. O. Braden, of Vegreville, recently organized the Haight Local. D. Petryga and F. C. Manders were elected president and secretary.

HALLADAY REORGANIZED

Halladay Local, in the Acadia constituency, was reorganized recently with S. Becket and J. McCluskey as officers.

BOX SOCIAL AT CLAREMONT

Claremont U. F. W. A. Local held a box social, program and dance recently, which, says the secretary, Mrs. Margaret Gibson, "was an unqualified success both socially and financially, the net proceeds being $86.40." A farce, "Please Pass the Cream", and two other sketches, with readings and musical selections made up the program.

PLANS BABY CLINIC

Energetic U. F. W. A. Local heard addresses by Mrs. Wyman, of the Poultry Pool, and Mrs. Carlson, U. F. W. A.

director for Lethbridge. Both were very much enjoyed, writes the secretary, Mrs. M. E. Hammel. This Local is planning to hold a baby clinic during the year.

NEW U. F. W. A. LOCAL AT KILLAM

A new U. F. W. A. Local was organized on March 3rd at Killam, under the name of Poplar Park No. 1411. Mrs. N. Sherback was elected secretary. Other members are: Mrs. Alex G. Wilson, Mrs. B. Johnson, Mrs. H. F. Sherback, Mrs. H. Jetlock and Mrs. A. Stretch.

FROM 18 TO 41

Brosseau Local has increased from 18 members last year to 41 this year, writes D. Grant, secretary, adding: "We make every U. F. A. meeting, which is one a month, a social evening, therefore we get the whole neighborhood out."

This Local States It Finds Difficulty in Getting Members

Says Farmers Have Lost Faith in H. W. Wood Because U. F. A. Conventions Always Re-elects Him

Editor of "The U. F. A." Calgary:

At a well attended meeting of the Hudson Heights Local No. 626, the following resolutions were passed unanimously. We request they be published without prejudice in "The U. F. A.":

No. 1: Whereas there has been a heavy falling off of membership in the U.F.A., and whereas, we, the members of Hudson Heights Local No. 626, find difficulty in gaining new members or even holding our old members, because of the fact that farmers generally have lost faith in President H. W. Wood, as it seems impossible to cause change in this office at the Annual Convention.

And whereas, we are opposed to any man, no matter how good, holding office in our association for an indefinite period.

Therefore, be it resolved that the executive of the U. F. A. shall not hold office for more than three consecutive years.

No. 2: Whereas, the President at the Annual Convention, put emphasis on the vastness of the undertaking involved in making a success of the Wheat Pool.

And whereas, it requires all the time and energy which any man can give to serve on the directorate thereof.

And whereas, the U. F. A. requires in its present critical state all the energy which an executive can give to it.

Therefore, we, the members of the Hudson Heights Local No. 626, are of the opinion that the membership of the executive of the U. F. A. and the Alberta Wheat Pool should not be composed of the same men.

Fraternally yours,
THOMAS E. HEWINES,
Secretary-treasurer.

Stibald, Alta.

RENFREW

The new high-yielding wheat. Genuine true to type Renfrew. Certified as No. 1 seed. Certificate 65-210. My crop was examined in the field and if required Dominion Seed Branch will inspect each sack, seal, and certify as genuine Renfrew. Write for prices.

MAJOR H. S. L. STRANGE
Penn Alberta

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The first Pool period closed in December, when a premium was paid to contract signers.

The Pool invites all producers to join. If your flock is small, join anyway, and we'll show you how to create a new source of farm revenue.

Many farmers are making less than $100.00 from their poultry annually, while others with no more effort, are making four times that amount. Join the Pool and let us show you how to make maximum profits through our SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICE.

To operate efficiently, the Pool must have general support.

GENERAL SUPPORT MEANS LARGE VOLUME.
LARGE VOLUME MEANS LOW OVERHEAD.
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Price List for Seed Grain

MARQUIS WHEAT

For second generation	$2.50 per bushel
For third generation	$2.00 per bushel
For Extra No. 1, second generation	$2.30 per bushel
For Extra No. 1, third generation	$1.75 per bushel

Wheat Sacks 24c each extra

VICTORY AND BANNER OATS

The following are the exact prices for Oats, which will hold for the season:

First generation	$2.00 per bushel
Second generation	$1.25 per bushel
Third generation	.90 per bushel
Extra No. 1, second generation	.80 per bushel
Extra No. 1, third generation	.60 per bushel

Oats Sacks 12c each extra.

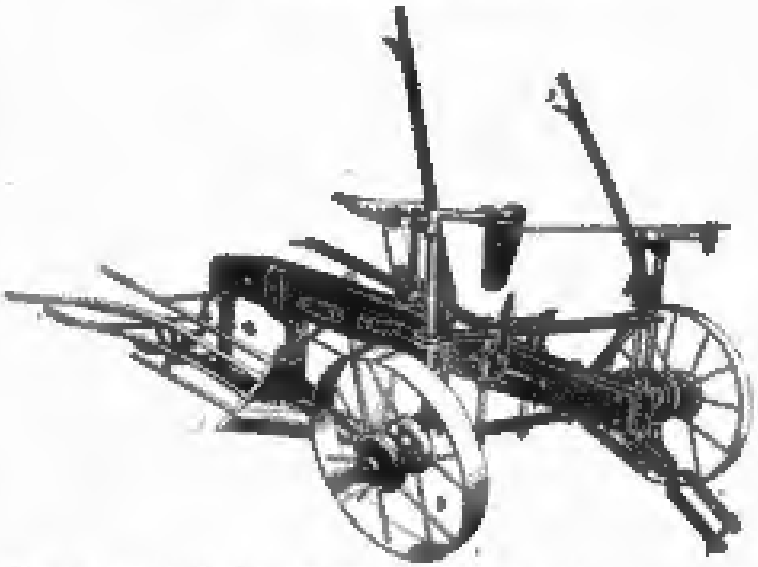
Commercial .40 per bushel

Wheat is put up in two-bushel sacks, and Oats in three-bushel sacks. All prices are F.O.B. Cleaning Plant, Edmonton.

THE BEST, Positively!

Van Slyke Breaking Plow

A WESTERN PLOW, BUILT IN THE WEST, FOR WESTERN FARMERS



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We are now offering Sweet Clover Seed, both Arctic and White Blossom. We will also be pleased to send you booklets on Sweet Clover and our descriptive Seed Catalog on request.

White Blossom Sweet Clover Seed, per 100 lbs., $7.00

Arctic White Blossom Sweet Clover Seed, per 100 lbs., $11.00

Bags extra at 35c each. Seed is Government inspected for purity and germination. Get your order in early.

JAS. D. McGREGOR
GLENCARNOCK FARMS
BRANDON, MAN.

"OUR BEST" GOPHER POISON

The following is an actual occurrence, Dates, Names and Location on request:

"We took a can of 'Our Best' Gopher Poison and mixed it according to directions.

"Two of us then took this grain and walked around the land placing a few grains wherever we thought were likely places, such as holes, etc.

"In the first hour we counted 120 Dead Gophers.

"It was a revelation to us how quick your poison acted, the Gopher no sooner had the grain in his mouth than he tumbled over dead."

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